(c) whether any such scheme has been sanctioned for Azamgarh district in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) If so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) has been implementing a scheme of vocational training for persons belonging to minority communities, living below double the poverty line, through State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) in respective States/ UTs. NMDFC provides grants covering 85% of the training cost and also a stipend of Rs. 500 per month to the candidates.

The Maulana Azad Education Foundation is running a Vocational Training Centre for women in the old campus of Dr. Zakir Hussain College, Ajmeri Gate, Delhi where free training is provided for cutting, tailoring, textile designing, beauty culture and computers to girls, mainly belonging to the educationally backward minorities.

(c) and (d) Uttar Pradesh Minorities Development and Finance Corporation, which is the SCA of NMDFC in Uttar Pradesh has organized a 'Computer Training' of one year duration through M/s Natural Resources Care Society, Sindhari, Azamgarh for 15 candidates during 2006-07, out of which there were four women candidates.

The SCA has also organized a vocational training programme on 'Sewing & Embroidery' for 20 women candidates belonging to minorities during 2006-07. The course duration was for 6 months. The training was conducted through M/s Mansab Khan Educational Society, Sadullahpur, Azamgarh.

Policy on new and renewable energy sources

2880. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of policy on new and renewable energy with specific focus on solar energy; and

(b) the success rate in its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) The Ministry is promoting deployment of various new and renewable energy systems/devices in the country through several measures, such as, provision of fiscal and financial incentives that include capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, concessional duties and relief from income tax on profits made from the sale of renewable power. Preferential tariffs for grid interactive power from renewables are also available. Recently, a new demonstration scheme has been announced by the Ministry to provide generation based incentive for MW-capacity grid interactive solar power project. In addition, publicity and awareness on renewable energy systems/devices is being created through print, postal and electronic media besides organization of special events like Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas. District level Advisory Committees have also been constituted in States to facilitate promotion and effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

(b) The implementation of various programmes of the Ministry has resulted in the installation of over 11000 MW grid interactive renewable power and 208 MW equivalent off-grid distributed renewable power by the end of year 2007. In addition, a large capacity of decentralized energy systems have been installed. This includes 39.4 lakh family type biogas plants, 71000 SPV street lighting systems, 4.03 lakhs SPV home lighting systems,

7.05 lakhs solar lanterns, 7148 SPV pumps, 6.17 lakh solar cookers and 2.3 million square meter collector area for solar water heating have been installed. Further, 3368 remote villages and 830 hamlets have been electrified through renewable energy so far.

Scheme for wind and solar energy

†2881. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state the steps Government intends to take to popularize the schemes with regard to wind energy, solar energy, biogas etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): The Government has taken several measures to popularize the use of renewable energy systems/devices in the country which include the following:

— Fiscal and financial incentives, such as, capital/interest subsidy, accelerated depreciation, nil/concessional excise and customs duties;

— Preferential tariff for grid interactive renewable power in most potential States;

— Extensive publicity and awareness on the use of renewable energy systems/devices through print, postal and electronic media;

— Organisation of special events like the Rajiv Gandhi Akshay Urja Diwas;

— Constitution of District-level Advisory Committees in the States to facilitate effective coordination of renewable energy schemes/programmes.

Action Plan for Development of Alternative Energy Sources

2882. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that renewable energy is fast picking up in the world;

(b) what is the action plan of Government to develop this source of energy in a big way, to serve as an alternative source in the coming years; and

(c) the action plan of Government to exploit this potential in Orissa which has a vast scope in this sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir. The rising oil prices coupled with environment concerns are leading to increased interest worldwise in the harnessing of renewable energy sources.

(b) During the 11th Plan period it is proposed to add power generation capacity of 15,000 MW from renewable sources and deploy 11.6 million sq. meter of solar thermal collector area for water heating, cooking, drying applications and 2 million cubic meter aggregate capacity of family type biogas plants. Provision of renewable energy systems for electricity/ lighting and other uses in 10,000 remote villages is also envisaged.

(c) The exploitation of the potential of various renewable energy sources in a particular region lies with the respective State Governments depending on their perceived energy needs, energy supply options and priorities. However, the Electricity Act, 2003 mandates all States to fix a certain minimum percentage for purchase of power from renewable energy sources in the area of distribution licensee depending on resource availability and local conditions. In this regard, the State Government of Orissa has fixed a minimum renewable power purchase obligation of 450 million units per annum. The Central Government is supporting all such efforts for exploitation of renewable energy potential by way of various fiscal and financial incentives under different schemes/programmes.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.